AMENDMENT

In The Claims:

    1. (currently amended ） A method for protecting high layer service in a multi-layer communication equipment of a communication network, comprising the following process:

    [[First]] first, a low layer processing module provides a high layer processing module with a low layer transmission passage;

    [[Second]] second, the high layer processing module extracts and inserts high layer service of the multilayer communication equipment from the low layer transmission passage, avoiding changing the service between upstream node and downstream node after passing the high layer processing module of the multi-layer communication equipment;

    [[Third]] third, [[after]] when the high layer processing module detecting said high layer processing module encountering a trouble, it will inform the low layer processing module;

    [[Fourth]] fourth, [[after]] when the low layer processing module detecting that the high layer processing module [[encountering]] encounters the trouble, the low layer transmission passage between the low layer processing module and the high layer processing module is broken, and the low layer processing module connects the broken passage to set up a bypass, so as to isolate the high layer processing module encountering a trouble.

    2. (previously presented) A method for protecting high layer service in a multi-layer communication equipment according to claim 1, wherein in the second step, a transparent virtual path connection is set up for the service passing the high layer processing module of the said node, namely for ATM traffic, a cross connection, which changes neither virtual path identification nor virtual channel identification, will be set up, to avoid changing the service between upstream node and downstream node after passing high layer processing module of the said node.

    3. (currently amended) A method for protecting high layer service in a multi-layer communication equipment according to claim 1, wherein in the third step, when the high layer processing module detects the [[said]] high layer module encountering trouble, it will inform the

low layer processing module by soft messages or hardware signals.

    4. (previously presented) A method for protecting high layer service in a multi-layer communication equipment according to claim 1, wherein in the fourth step, said situation that low layer processing module detect high layer processing module encountering trouble further comprising: low layer processing module judges whether the service signal transmitting by high layer processing module is invalid or not, or low layer processing module detects the hardware signals or soft messages sending by high layer processing module indicating its invalidation.

    5. (currently amended) A method for protecting high layer service in a multi-layer communication equipment according to claim 1, wherein said bypass [[connection]] is actual connection of [[the]] _a_ physical _line_ [[lines, or it is logical connection within low layer processing module]].

    6. (previously presented) A method for protecting high layer service in a multi-layer communication equipment according to claim 4, wherein said bypass connection is actual connection of the physical lines, or it is a logical connection within the low layer processing module.

    7. (new) A method for protecting high layer service in a multi-layer communication equipment according to claim 1, wherein the low layer processing module is a SDH processing module and the high layer processing module is an ATM processing module.

    8. (new) A method for protecting high layer service in a multi-layer communication equipment according to claim 1, wherein after the low layer processing module detects that the high layer processing module encounters the trouble, the low layer transmission passage between the low layer processing module and the high layer processing module is broken, and the low layer processing module connects the broken passage to set up a bypass without checking whether the lower layer processing module encounters a trouble.

    9. (new) A method for protecting high layer service in a multi-layer communication equipment according to claim 1, wherein said bypass is logical connection within the low layer processing module.